



General Assembly

January Session, 2011

Proposed Bill No. 5990

LCO No. 775

Referred to Committee on Government Administration and Elections

Introduced by:
REP. SCHOFIELD, 16th Dist.

AN ACT CONCERNING REFINEMENTS TO THE ELECTION LAWS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 That title 9 of the general statutes be amended to provide that (1)
2 "public declaration" of intent to run, which forces the candidate to
3 switch from exploratory to campaign committee, be defined to more
4 closely mirror the interpretation given to the term by the State
5 Elections Enforcement Commission in Declaratory Ruling 2009-01
6 which permits a major party candidate to make such an announcement
7 without filing a candidate committee if such announcement is only
8 made to a town committee, but enables a petitioning or minor party
9 candidate to tell anyone that he or she is running, if they might sign his
10 or her petition; (2) there be a separate petitioning process for securing a
11 place on the ballot and a separate process to petition for a grant, with
12 the petition for the grant clearly stating that the petition is to secure a
13 grant from the Client Security Fund and that anyone collecting
14 signatures for the grant petition must make a clear, verbal statement
15 that the petition is to secure state grant money; (3) donors be entitled to
16 a return of their campaign donation during a one-week period after
17 making the donation and that all candidates give donors a written

18 explanation of the purpose of the donation, to qualify for a state grant,
19 and that the explanation include information on how to ask for a
20 refund, provided, in the case of an unsolicited donation, such written
21 explanation must be provided within five business days of receipt of
22 the donation; (4) "advisor", as used in the definition of organization
23 expenditure, be defined to provide that the advisor must provide
24 skilled service such as not circulating petitions or making copies; and
25 (5) donors be permitted to use one check from a joint account for two
26 donors with two signed donor forms and to allow checks drawn from
27 the account of a sole proprietor.

Statement of Purpose:

To refine the election reform laws to provide for a definition of "public declaration", a dual petition process for ballot access and grant qualification, a provision for a campaign donor to receive a refund of the donation during a certain period of time, a statement of the meaning of an "advisor" in the context of organization expenditures, to permit donors to use one check from a joint checking account for two donors and to allow donors to draw checks from the account of a sole proprietorship as a campaign donation.